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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2        Method and apparatus for associating an end-to-end call identifier  
3        with a connection in a multimedia packet network. An end-to-end call  
4        identifier (EECID) is provided to uniquely identify a call leg across a packet  
5        network, regardless of the number of nodes used in completing the network  
6        path. The EECID allows for call association with a bearer connection so that  
7        high level call processing and low level bearer connection management can  
8        function independently but correlated by media gateways and media gate-  
9        way controllers. Either a media gateway or media gateway controller can  
10      generate the EECID before establishing a connection for a call. The EECID  
11      is then sent to remote media gateways and media gateway controllers. The  
12      bearer connection can be setup by a media gateway at either end of the  
13      connection with respect to where the EECID is generated. The invention is  
14      useful in a connection oriented packet network that is connected to a TDM  
15      telephone network through a media gateway controlled by a media gateway  
16      controller.